

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A sheet for forming an image comprising a substrate film and two or more image-formative layers disposed thereon, the image-formative layers being defined by frame respectively and arranged in a longitudinal direction of the substrate film,

wherein an identifying mark comprising a sequence of mark bits which records information concerning the sheet for forming an image is provided to the sheet for forming an image in a manner of allocating respective mark bits to unit frames each of which comprises a single frame or plural frames of the image-formative layer with the mark bits being arranged in order of the sequence recording the information with at least one cycle period comprising a certain number of the unit frames along with a longitudinal direction of the sheet for forming an image, and

wherein the sequence of the mark bits constituting the identifying mark is a combination of a sequence of mark bits constituting a first mark A with a sequence of mark bits constituting a second mark B, the first mark A having a cycle period of a natural number X, the second mark B having a cycle period same as said X or of a natural number Y different from said X and relatively prime with said X, and the first mark A and the second mark B being different from each other.

2. A sheet for forming an image according to claim 1, wherein the identifying mark is an optically detectable mark, and the first mark A and the second mark B have different optical property for

detection.

3. A sheet for forming an image according to claim 1, wherein the sequence of mark bits constituting the identifying mark is a combination of the sequence of mark bits constituting the first mark A, the sequence of mark bits constituting the second mark B, and a sequence of mark bits constituting a third mark C, the third mark C having a cycle period same as the natural numbers X and/or Y or of a natural number Z different from said X and/or Y and relatively prime with said X and Y, and the first mark A, the second mark B and the third mark C being different from each other.

4. A sheet for forming an image according to claim 1, wherein the sequence of mark bits constituting the identifying mark is a combination of at least three sequences of mark bits including those of the mark A and the mark B, each of the sequences constituting a separate series of mark from each other, wherein each mark has a cycle period of a natural number same as any one of the other mark or of a natural number different from every one of the other mark and relatively prime with each other, and the all the marks are different from each other in sequence.

5. An image forming method using the sheet for forming an image according to claim 1 comprising steps of:

detecting an identifying mark of the sheet for forming an image;

and

identifying the sheet for forming an image based on a detecting

result of the detecting step.

6. An image forming method according to claim 5 wherein, in the detecting step, at least one cycle of the mark bits of the identifying mark are detected while carrying the sheet for forming an image to a forward or a reverse direction.

7. An image forming apparatus using the sheet for forming an image according to claim 1 comprising:

a means for detecting an identifying mark of the sheet for forming an image; and

a means for identifying the sheet for forming an image based on a detecting result of the detecting step.

8. An image forming apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the means for detecting the mark bits detects at least one cycle of the mark bits of the identifying mark while carrying the sheet for forming an image to a forward or a reverse direction.